REMARKS

In this paper, claims 11, 13 and 17 are currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mackinnon (GB 2,161,040). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a bicycle condition detecting unit that detects when a bicycle is in a selected condition that ordinarily does not require drawing current from the battery unit for powering a current drawing element, and a voltage decreasing unit that decreases voltage of the battery unit when the bicycle condition detecting unit detects the selected condition. Mackinnon discloses an electrical power supply for a pedal-driven vehicle wherein a voltage level sensor and switch (6) monitors the level of the voltage provided from a generating means (1, 2, 3) that includes an alternator (1). If the generator voltage is above a predetermined level, then voltage is supplied to the regulator (7) and load (8) from the generating means (1, 2, 3). However, if the generator voltage falls below the predetermined level, then voltage level sensor and switch (6) supplies voltage to the regulator (7) and load (8) from a battery pack (5) instead of from the generating means (1, 2, 3). In other words, as properly noted in the office action, during operation of the Mackinnon device, electric power is supplied from the generating means (1, 2, 3) when the vehicle is moving at a suitable speed, whereas power is supplied from the battery pack (5) when the vehicle is moving too slowly to drive the generator at a reasonable rate, or when the vehicle is stationary.

However, as applied to claim 1, the detection of "a selected condition that ordinarily does not require drawing current from the battery unit for powering a current drawing element" can only read on the operation of the Mackinnon device when the generator voltage is above the predetermined level, because at that time current need not be drawn from battery pack (5). At that time, voltage is supplied to the regulator (7) and load (8) from the generating means (1, 2, 3), not from battery pack (5). But that also means that there is no basis to say that the voltage of battery pack (5) will decrease at that time as required by the last element of claim 1. Quite to the contrary, the voltage of battery pack (5) will *increase* as a result of the charging action of charging circuitry (4).

On the other hand, when the voltage of the generating means (1, 2, 3) is below the predetermined level, then voltage level sensor and switch (6) supplies voltage to a regulator (7) and load (8) from a battery pack (5), instead of from the generating means (1, 2, 3) because the deficient voltage is a selected condition that *does* require drawing current from the battery unit for powering a current drawing element (i.e., the lamps comprising load (8)). Thus, in this situation, Mackinnon fails to meet the second element of claim 1.

In either case, Mackinnon neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter recited in claim 1.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mackinnon in view of Hideki (JP 9-271102). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons noted above.

Furthermore, Hideki discloses a power supply device (431) comprising a plurality of capacitors (51) for a motor vehicle, wherein capacitors (51) are coupled to a discharging resistor (432) when the vehicle is stopped for 30 minutes or more. Applying this teaching to Mackinnon would result in a device that discharges Mackinnon's battery pack (5) when battery pack (5) is needed to power the lighting elements comprising the load (8), thereby destroying the ability of battery pack (5) to power the lighting elements.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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